

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A photochemical hole burning medium, comprising a material in which a rare earth complex and a reducing agent are dispersed in a solid matrix; wherein

the photochemical hole burning medium is used at low temperatures; and

said rare earth complex is at least one complex selected from the group consisting of a europium (III) crown ether complex, a europium (III) polyether complex, and a europium (III) cryptand complex,

wherein said electron-donating composite compound is an organic tin compound represented by  $\text{RSnSnR}$  in which R is an alkyl group or an aryl group.

10.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The photochemical hole burning medium set forth in claim 9, wherein said solid matrix is at least one glass-forming compound selected from the group consisting of silica, germanium oxide, boron oxide, phosphorus pentoxide and tellurium oxide.

20.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The photochemical hole burning medium set forth in claim 19, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  is contained in said solid matrix.

30.-39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The photochemical hole burning medium set forth in claim 9, wherein the reducing agent has an oxidation/reduction potential of not more than 1 V.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)